are produced from crude oil, which is a fossil fuel. However, certain fuels can be produced from agricultural products, such as ethanol, which can be produced from molasses, a by-product of sugar, or bio-diesel which can be produced from vegetable oils and fats. In many parts of the country, including in the State of Uttaranchal, State Governments are promoting the cultivation of non-edible oil seeds plants such as Jatropha Curcus, from the oil of which bio-diesel can be produced.

(b) and (c) ONGC is in the business of exploration for and production of crude Oil and Natural Gas Marketing of petroleum and petroleum and petroleum products, including alternative fuel based on agricultural produce comes under the purview of the Oil Marketing Companies. As part of their R&D activities, the R&D units of Oil Companies, particularly M/s. Indian Oil Corporation Limited, have manufactured bio-diesel for experimental purposes, mainly to study blending of bio-diesel in diesel and its effect on performance in the transportation sector Oil Companies are not themselves involved in, nor do they promote, the cultivation of agricultural products from which bio-diesel is derived. That is the responsibility of the National Mission on Bio-diesel.

ONGC's projects in Sudan

2894. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC is laying a 741-Km long petroleum product pipeline in Sudan and will also build a 1.2 billion dollar oil refinery in Sudan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of Indian professionals who will get an opportunity?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) In view of the satisfactory performance of ONGC/OVL in Sudan in the Greater Nile Oil Project (GNOP) and the 5A & 5B Blocks, where OVL have a participating interest, and keeping in view the excellent relationship between the two countries, the Sudan Government offered the Khartoum-Port Sudan Pipeline Project and Port Sudan Refinery Project to ONGC/OVL in October, 2003.

After obtaining Government approval, OVL have signed an agreement with the Ministry of Energy and Mining (MEM) of Sudan on 30.6.2004 for implementing the pipeline project, which is scheduled to be inaugurated by Minister (P&NG) towards the end of August or early September, 2005.

The proposed Port Sudan refinery will have a refining capacity of 100,000 bbl/per day for the Coker+Cracker Fluidized Catalytic (FCC) configuration as chosen by the MEM. As ONGC/OVL is not essentially a refinery company, for the planning and execution of the Sudan Refinery Project, they have been advised to take the required technical support from Engineers India Ltd. (EIL) and Mangalore Refinery Petrochemicals Ltd. (MRPL), a subsidiary of ONGC, who are in the business of setting up and operating refineries.

The execution of the pipeline project involves procurement of materials and services for which several Indian parties are involved. However, it would be difficult to quantify the number of Indian professionals who would get an opportunity.

Counterfeit gas cylinders

2895. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adulterated and counterfeit gas cylinders are pushed into market which are serious threat to people;

(b) if so, the number of accidents and deaths which occurred due to such cylinders; and

(c) whether Government have taken any firm action to prevent it and to chastise the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are procuring LPG cylinders from cylinder manufacturers who are approved by the Oil Industry Technical Committee (OITC) and have valid manufacturing licences from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Chief Controller of Explosives (CCOE). Strict control is exercised by BIS

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.